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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch)

NORTH AMERICA

Drainage Changes in the Shenandoah Valley Region of Virginia. By Thomas L. Watson and Justus H. Cline. *Bull. Philosoph. Soc., Univ. of Virginia,* Scientific Series, Vol. I, 1913, No. 17, pp. 349-368. Charlottesville, Va.

One of the most interesting areas in America for the study of drainage modifications is included in the Appalachian Mountain belt of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. The present paper deals with the development of the Shenandoah, a typical subsequent stream, and its branches. It is shown that a series of southeastward flowing rivers crossed a low ridge of resistant rock through narrow water gaps. Subsequent branches of the larger transverse streams developed on a belt of weak rock on the upstream side of the ridge, capturing the headwaters of weaker neighboring streams and leaving wind gaps to mark their former paths across the ridge. Ultimately one subsequent branch (Shenandoah) of the master transverse stream (Potomac) succeeded in beheading its temporary rivals southward to the James. The altitude and size of the abandoned wind gaps through the ridge (Blue Ridge) enable the authors to reconstruct the former drainage at different epochs and to determine the relative size of some of the streams and the order of the successive captures. Numerous maps and photographs have been used to illustrate the discussion. Further account of drainage changes in this region is promised in a future paper.

The discussion of the early drainage history of the region is not convincing, because the authors do not seem to distinguish between the surface drainage due to the Appalachian folding and the drainage on the warped peneplain surface of much later date. Superposed streams are mistaken for antecedent throughout the paper, and the same rivers are called both consequent and antecedent. Even the later drainage history is in places open to question, for Ashby Gap, which is cut more deeply into the Blue Ridge than others which are given great prominence, is omitted from all the maps, and no account is taken of it in reconstructing the former drainage. One misses a statement of the comparative elevations of different wind gaps and other essential details of evidence, and must rest content with the authors' conclusions when he would like to have in addition the facts on which the conclusions are based. Future papers on this important region would also gain in clearness if all the local places to which physiographic descriptions are referred could be shown on the maps.

An Industrial History of the American People. By J. R. H. Moore. xiii and 496 pp. Ills., index. Macmillan Co., New York, 1913. $1.25. 7½ x 5.

The attempt is to present, for high school courses in history, a text-book which is practical, or as stated in the preface, "profitable." There seems no doubt that the interest of the boy or girl will be held by a book of this type much more effectively than by those histories which still give the impression that the political progress of the world's nations has been more often the result of the whims of personalities than the effect of natural causes. The discussions bring events "to earth" by finding their causes in the topography, soil, climate, location or some other natural basis.

The book is divided into thirteen chapters treating, in the main, nine subjects: Fisheries, Lumber, Fur Trade, The Labor Problem, Agriculture, Com-